

TAB C
CIA Subcom
House Armed Services

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Box 145
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28 January 1956

Memorandum of Meeting of the CIA Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee

Participants: Chairman Vinson, Dewey Short (R., Mo.), Overton Brooks (D., La.), Leslie C. Arends (R., Ill.), Paul J. Kilday (D., Tex.), W. Sterling Cole (R., N.Y.) of the Subcommittee, and Committee Counsel Robert Smart, Mr. Dulles, Gen. Cabell, Col. White and Mr. Paul from CIA.

1. This was the first meeting of the newly constituted CIA Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. There was no specific agenda, and after a few introductory remarks, the Chairman turned the meeting over to the Director for his presentation.
2. The Director expressed the gratitude of CIA for the establishment of the Subcommittee, and stated his hope that it would be an active one. He indicated that there were no secrets between himself and the members of this Subcommittee, and that he would brief the members on all aspects of CIA's activities in which they had any interest. He did emphasize, however, the necessity of protecting sources and methods, and the Chairman agreed that this was of course necessary. The Director further emphasized the importance of maintaining a reputation for complete security in the activities of CIA. In this connection, he referred to the close relationships which CIA enjoys with other intelligence services abroad, their value to the Agency, and the essentiality of their maintaining confidence in us.
3. The Director then gave a detailed explanation of the organization of CIA, referring to a chart which was circulated to the members. In describing the DD/I complex, he emphasized the coordinating responsibilities of the Agency in the field of collection and evaluation of intelligence from all Government sources, and he gave frequent examples as to how the various offices went about their business. In describing the DD/P operation, the Director gave frequent examples of covert operations abroad in which this Agency has been involved during the past several years, emphasizing the extreme sensitivity of these operations. He also described the functions of each major office in the DD/S complex.

4. The Director then gave a run down of the CIA budget, both as to magnitude and composition, during the past five years. He also gave figures as to the personnel strength of the Agency at home and abroad, and used a chart to illustrate the rapid rise in strength in the early years and the levelling off from 1952 onward. In discussing the personnel problem, the Director referred to the fact that CIA would probably propose during this session a number of amendments to the CIA Act of 1949, which were designed in the main to provide benefits for the career service which this Agency was attempting to build. It was emphasized that the benefits sought were patterned after those which were now in existence or being sought by the Foreign Service.

A question was raised as to the number of supergrades in the Agency. The Director and Col. White indicated that, taking into account the number of Foreign Service officers who received salaries on a comparable scale to the Civil Service supergrade, CIA was considerably below the Department of State in the number of supergrade appointments. The Director indicated that he had been purposely cautious in his appointment of supergrades, and sought the advice of the Committee as to whether he had perhaps been too conservative in this regard. Although the Committee wants to see more detail on this subject, the reaction of Chairman Vinson and several members of the Subcommittee was that the Director had been too conservative in this field, and they saw no compelling reason why we should adhere to Civil Service standards and practices in other grades. Chairman Vinson also said he thought when possible we should solve our problems without legislation.

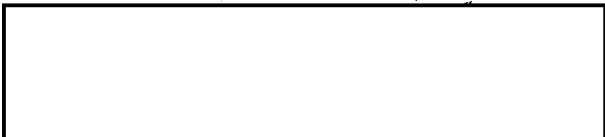
5. At the request of the Committee, the Director gave a detailed report on the status of the Soviet guided missile program. In giving this report, he read verbatim from a memorandum on this subject, dated 27 January 1956, which had been prepared by OSI. A question was raised as to the potency of the atomic warhead in various missiles to which the Director referred. After consultation with the Chairman and Representative Cole, the Director gave this information, which he read from a paper previously prepared by OSI as the basis for the Director's briefing of the Military Applications Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

6. Two other subjects were discussed during the course of the meeting. The Chairman, both at the beginning and at the end of the meeting

indicated that he felt CIA should erect its new headquarters building right in the District of Columbia, presumably at or near its present location. The Director explained that he had been instructed to seek a location outside of the District, but he also described the difficulties he was having in finding a location which was suitable to all concerned. He indicated that a final decision had not been made and could not be made until after the National Capital Planning Commission had acted again on his recommendations.

7. There was some discussion of the Mansfield Resolution. The Chairman stated his strong view that a Joint Committee was a very bad thing, among other reasons because the House always came out second best in any joint committee arrangement. He stated that he intended to contact the leadership to insure that this measure did not pass the House, and stated his hope that all other members of the Subcommittee would join him in actively opposing the Resolution. None of the members indicated that he disagreed with the Chairman's views.

8. The meeting adjourned after approximately two hours, and at its conclusion the Chairman indicated that if any inquiries were directed towards anyone present regarding the subject matter of the meeting, it was to be stated that the Committee had met to discuss the CIA building.


Norman S. Paul
Legislative Counsel

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